



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 18, 2019

Honorable George Holding
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Holding:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the use of U.S. Department of Education (Department) grant funds by the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies (Consortium).

Institutions of higher education that receive Federal funds under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), are required to use those funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant and the HEA, and Department regulations. This includes a requirement under Section 602 (e)(1) of the HEA that grantees must use funds to support activities that "reflect diverse perspectives and a wide range of views and generate debate on world regions and international affairs."

I am troubled by the concerns outlined in your letter. In order for the Department to learn more about this matter, I have directed the Office of Postsecondary Education to examine the use of funds under this program to determine if the Consortium violated the terms and conditions of its grant, Department regulations, or the HEA. It is critical that recipients of grants use funds in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as for purposes of the program for which they are funded.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. If you have further concerns, please contact Jordan Harding with the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at (202) 401-0020.

Sincerely,


Betsy DeVos